

BRIGHTON AUTONOMOUS SHELTER

<http://brightonautonomousshelter.wordpress.com/>

The Brighton Autonomous shelter will be a squatted safe space providing a place to sleep for anyone who needs it. We may move from place to place because of eviction notices.

If you need somewhere to sleep or would like to get involved call **07907281177** to find out where we are.



BRIGHTON AUTONOMOUS SHELTER

In February residents of Brighton and Hove will open an autonomous squatted homeless shelter to provide night-shelter accommodation for rough sleepers. The shelter will provide accommodation to anyone who needs it. It will be a safe space staffed by volunteers.

We are a group of individuals from a variety of backgrounds who feel that in a society where the state refuses to accept responsibility for providing services for rough sleepers, we are left with no other option but to take direct action by providing these essential services ourselves.

Why do we need an autonomous homeless shelter?

The closure of St Patrick's night shelter on 31st January means there is nowhere to go in Brighton and Hove to shelter from the elements and have the stability of knowing there will be a bed to return to for the next night.

St Patrick's is a charity-run men's hostel and night-shelter which has been providing walk-in accommodation since 1985. Since then it has been the only place in Brighton and Hove where homeless men are able to turn up, without a council approved referral, and get a bed the same night. There are no similar services for women.

St Patrick's had been in a long running conflict with Brighton and Hove Council because the night shelter provided beds to people without a 'local connection'. The council's response was to accuse St Patrick's of increasing the rough sleeper population by inviting an influx of homeless people seeking accommodation.

On this basis, the council has refused funding to the St Patrick's night shelter, because of concerns over Brighton and Hove being "flooded" by homeless people.

Brighton and Hove Council are not only deliberately ignoring homelessness issues in the area but are in fact intentionally causing suffering in order to push rough sleepers out of the city.

Until the council provide basic services for rough sleepers there will be a need for an autonomous shelter.

If you need somewhere to sleep or would like to get involved call 07907281177 or speak to one of our volunteers.